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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

May 16, 2006

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MINORITY, MILITARY
READINESS
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE,
AND OCEANS

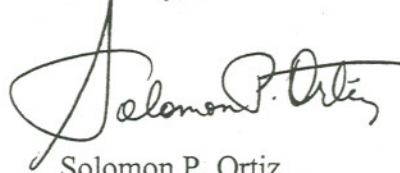
Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In light of the President's proposal to use 6,000 National Guard troops in a supporting role in securing our Nation's borders, I have great concerns regarding the effect on readiness on the National Guard and our ability to prosecute wars on two fronts, the effect on training of the National Guard, and its ability to respond to other contingencies, such as wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

I respectfully request that the Armed Services Committee hold a hearing on this important issue to determine exactly what the effects of the President's proposal will be, to delineate how we will pay for this plan, and to understand the command and control of these forces. I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress

cc: Ranking Member Ike Skelton

SPO:drm